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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 W
---------- 069340
R 280635Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6184

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DUBLIN AND GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CARGO FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, NP
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S SCHEDULE AFTER ARRIVING IN KATHMANDU

REF: (A) STATE 168787 (B) KATHMANDU 3316

1. THE KEY TO PLANNING SPECIFIC SCENARIO FOR YOUR FIRST MONTH HERE IS THE DATE THE PALACE WILL SET FOR YOUR CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION CEREMONY. FONSEC KHATRI TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY HE WAS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN KING WOULD GRANT YOU AUDIENCE FOR THIS PURPOSE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 27, FIRST DAY OF DASAIN HOLIDAY (AND MY PROJECTED DEPARTURE DATE). OTHER AVAILABLE INFO SUPPORTS THIS VIEW. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH NOTHING IS 100 PERCENT CERTAIN IN THIS COUNTRY UNTIL IT HAPPENS, IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO PLAN ON ASSUMPTION YOU WILL PRESENT YOUR CREDENTIALS SOMETIME PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 27.

2. THIS MEANS WE SHALL HAVE INITIAL PERIOD OF 12 DAYS AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL WHILE I AM STILL HERE TO WORK WITH YOU, PUNCTUATED SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE BY CREDENTIALS CEREMONY. I RECOMMEND YOU PLAN TO USE PRE-CREDENTIALS PORTION OF THIS PERIOD PRIMARILY FOR SETTLING INTO HOUSEHOLD AND OFFICE, PLUS GETTING TO KNOW COUNTRY TEAM AND MEETING OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF MISSION. YOU
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ARRIVE ON A SATURDAY MORNING, I TRUST NOT TOO TIRED IN

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VIEW PRECEDING DELHI STOPOVER. I WOULD LIKE, IF YOU AGREE, TO HOST A DINNER FOR YOU AND MRS. CARGO THAT SAME EVENING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE COUNTRY TEAM AND THEIR WIVES. EARLY THE FOLLOWING WEEK (MONDAY-TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17-18), YOU SHOULD, PER REF B, CALL ON CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, FOREIGN MINISTER (OR WHOEVER IS HOLDING HIS PORTFOLIO IN THE EVENT HE IS TRAVELING THEN) AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR O'BRIEN WHO IS DEAN OF THE CORPS. DURING THESE TWO DAYS I CAN ALSO INTRODUCE YOU TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND BEGIN ACQUAINTING YOU WITH EMBASSY OPERATIONS. REMAINDER OF WEEK (SEPTEMBER 19-21) COULD BE SPENT VISITING AND CONSULTING WITH MAJOR MISSION ELEMENTS HOUSED OUTSIDE EMBASSY PROPER, I.3., USAID, USIS, AND PEACE CORPS, PLUS, OF COURSE, FURTHER BRIEFINGS WITHIN EMBASSY. AFTER CREDENTIALS CEREMONY YOU SHOULD BEGIN FORMAL CALLS ON FOREIGN SECRETARY, PRIME MINISTER, OTHER GON MINISTERS, AND COLLEAGUES IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL PROTOCOL.

3. FURTHER PLANNING NEEDS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF DASAIN HOLIDAY WHICH BEGINS SEPTEMBER 27. THAT DAY IS GON HOLIDAY; FROM SEPTEMBER 28 THROUGH OCTOBER 2 GON OPERATES AT REDUCED SCHEDULE, WITH SOME CALLS AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS POSSIBLE. OCTOBER 315 ARE DAYS OF TOTAL SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PARALYSIS, WITH EVERYTHING SHUT DOWN, AND EVEN IN-HOUSE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS INHIBITED BY FACT DOMESTIC SERVANTS TAKE THESE THREE DAYS OFF. (HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE AN OFFICIAL CEREMONIAL FUNCTION ON OCTOBER 5 REQUIRING YOUR ATTENDANCE, PROVIDED YOU HAVE PRESENTED CREDENTIALS BY THEN.) GON REMAINS CLOSED AND HOLIDAYS EXTEND THROUGH OCTOBER 11; SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WILL OCCUR BUT AT REDUCED LEVEL. AFTER THAT, SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL UNTIL NEXT MAJOR HOLIDAY SEASON (TIHAR, WHICH BEGINS OCTOBER 24.)

4. AS FOR SOCIAL EVENTS, VARIOUS IN-HOUSE FUNCTIONS CAN BE HELD AFTER YOUR ARRIVE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MISSION PERSONNEL, FOLLOWING MY INITIAL DINNER TO PRESENT YOU TO COUNTRY TEAM. AS INDICATED REF B, LOCAL PROTOCOL SUGGESTS YOU GIVE A FUNCTION SHORTLY AFTER PRESENTATION
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OF YOUR CREDENTIALS FOR GON AND FELLOW DIPLOMATS. ALSO, CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS NORMALLY HOLD DIPLOMATIC LUNCH THE LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH; YOU WILL PRESUMABLY BE INVITED TO SEPTEMBER 28 LUNCHEON, PROVIDED YOU HAVE PRESENTED CREDENTIALS.

5. I SORESEE NO NEED FOR YOU TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE VALLEY BEFORE OR DURING DASAIN HOLIDAY. THERE WILL BE AMPLE

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OPPORTUNITY FOR SEEING OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY LATER
ON AFTER YOU HAVE SETTLED IN; AND NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
ARE IDEAL MONTHS FOR IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL.

6. WHILE DASIN APPEARS TO COMPLICATE YOUR PLANS FOR
INITIAL PERIOD, IT MAY BE BLESSING IN DISGUISE. YOU
WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE AT A TIME THAT IS
GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE AUSPICIOUS, PRESENT YOUR
CREDENTIALS, START YOUR CALLS, AND THEN RETIRE ALONG
WITH EVERYONE ELSE INTO TEMPORARY SECLUSION FOR THE DASAIN
HOLIDAYS, GIVING EMBASSY AND COUNTRY TEAM STAFF TIME
TO BRIEF YOU IN DETAIL ON LOCAL PERSONALITIES AND
PROBLEMS. THEN YOU CAN EMERGE WELL ARMED WITH THE
NECESSARY BACKGROUND, AND FAMILIARITY WITH THE LOCAL
ACTORS, IN MID-OCTOBER WHEN LIFE RETURNS TO NORMAL.
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